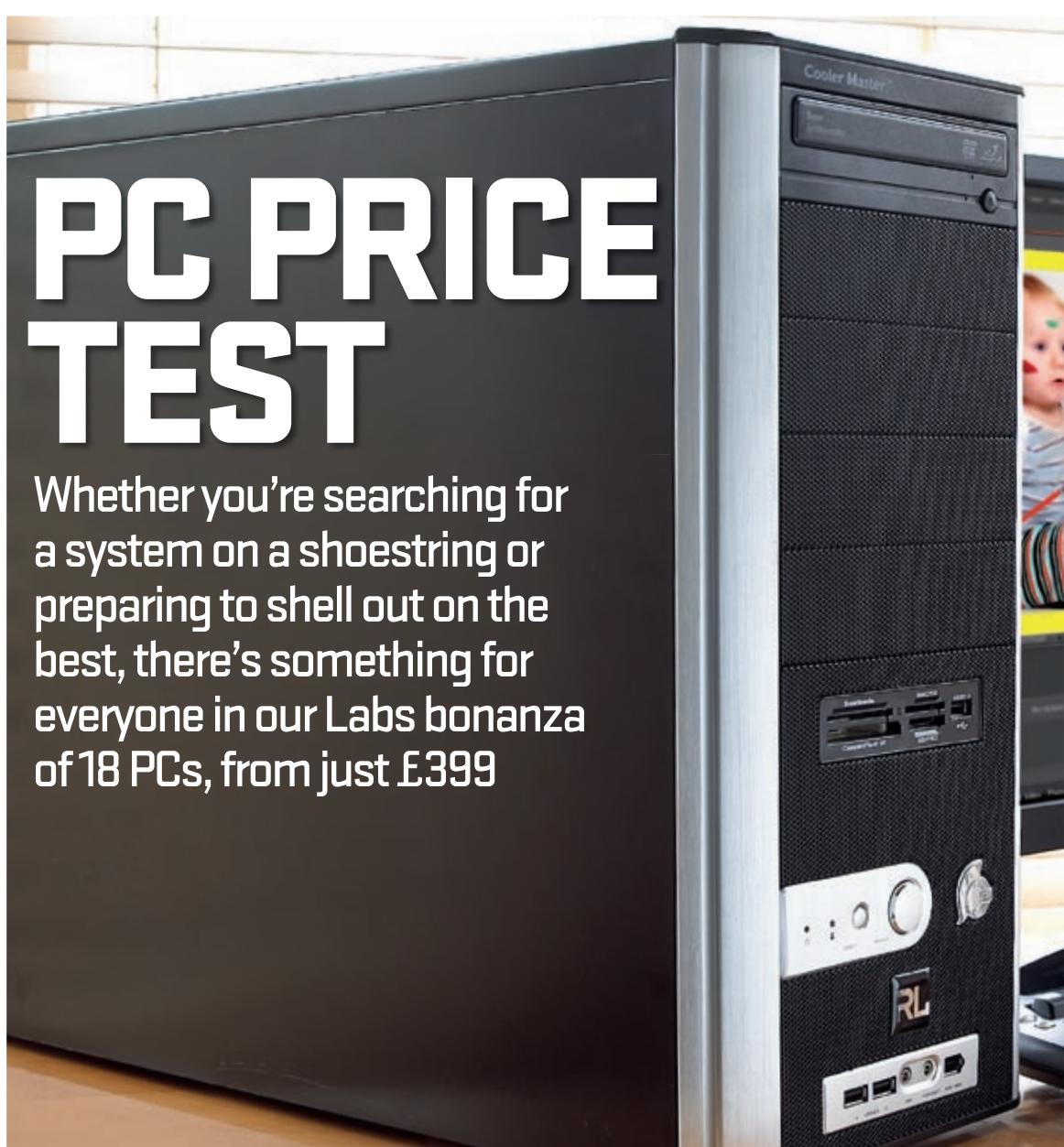


PC SYSTEMS



PC PRICE TEST

Whether you're searching for a system on a shoestring or preparing to shell out on the best, there's something for everyone in our Labs bonanza of 18 PCs, from just £399

INTRODUCTION

PCs may be more versatile and powerful than ever, but buying one is still a daunting task. There are numerous specifications and factors to consider, and if you have a flexible budget then it can be difficult to know how much to spend to get a PC that's just right for your needs.

This month, we have gathered together 18 desktop computers. Six are budget models from as little as £399 including VAT. Six others are mid-range, general-purpose PCs that cost just £700. The final six are powerful £900 workhorses, built with the best components.

We've put each PC through a range of tests, so you'll know exactly what you're getting for your hard-earned cash. No matter what you want to do with your computer, or the size of your budget, our comprehensive guide will help you pick a PC that's just right.

Alan Lu
PC systems and
storage expert



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Choosing a... PC System

There are some things you should always consider when buying a PC, irrespective of the size of your budget. Some features take priority over others depending on your needs, though, so it's worth having a clear idea of what you want from your computer. This is especially true if you are after a cheap PC, as manufacturers often make sacrifices to keep prices low.

VISTA WONDERFUL

Windows Vista comes in different versions with varying sets of features. The PCs in our group come with either Home Premium or Home Basic. Home Premium is the better choice, as it has Media Center built in, which lets you easily browse your music, video and photo libraries, as well as record and watch TV using a TV tuner. It also supports the fancy Aero interface.

Some of the PCs here have the 64-bit edition of Windows. This supports more memory than the 32-bit version's 3.5GB limit. Unfortunately, you need 64-bit drivers for your peripherals, so check for support for any existing hardware. Most software and games should run correctly, but check to see if there's a 64-bit version of any applications you use.

All the PCs in our group, even the six £400 computers, come with at least 2GB of RAM. This is

more than enough for running Vista and several programs simultaneously. Five of the six £900 PCs in our round-up have 4GB of RAM, which is useful for memory-intensive tasks such as editing RAW image files or composing music. Despite having 4GB of RAM, Mesh's Titan Elite HD and RL Supplies' Modula 4700 OC come with 32-bit rather than 64-bit Windows.

GRAND CENTRAL

Unsurprisingly, a higher budget will buy you a PC with a more powerful processor. A variety of processors are used by the budget computers in our £400 category. Single-core processors, such as the AMD Sempron LE-1200 used in NEC's PowerMate VL370, are fast enough for browsing the web and office work, but are too slow for tough tasks such as video editing.

The Celeron E1200 used in RL Supplies' Modula i1200 OC and the Pentium Dual Core E2180 used in Gladiator's Perseus CS E2180 are similar to the Intel Core 2 Duo E4500 chip in CyberPower's Gamer Infinity 600. They managed to keep up with the E4500 in most of our benchmarks, so they're perfectly acceptable processors for a budget PC. Mesh's 6000+ X2 GT is the only PC here to use an AMD processor, an Athlon 64 X2 6000+, but it was easily the fastest of the £400 PCs.



Action stations Getting HD movies on your PC

Two PCs here have Blu-ray players built in, but if you want to add one to an existing PC you'll need to know what's required. To connect your PC using a digital connection, you need a monitor and graphics card that supports HDCP. Any card and monitor with HDMI will do. For DVI devices, you need at least a GeForce 8 series graphics card or Radeon 2400 series; check your monitor manufacturer's website for more details.

Alternatively, you can simply use an analogue connection, such as VGA or component (if it's supported by your graphics card). Movie studios have promised not to introduce any technology to restrict the use of analogue connections until 2012, so you've got a while before you have to upgrade. Finally, you'll need a dedicated graphics card, as most onboard graphics aren't powerful enough to play HD movies.

All the £700 PCs and three £900 PCs in our round-up use one of Intel's latest E8000 series of Core 2 Duo processors. These are all noticeably faster than the £400 PCs, as our benchmarks on page 86 show. RL Supplies' £700 Modula 4500 OC uses an E8400 processor overclocked from 3GHz to 3.6GHz, so it even managed to beat some £900 PCs in our benchmarks.

Three of our £900 PCs use a quad-core Intel Core 2 Quad processor. This will provide a speed boost only in software rewritten to take advantage of the extra cores, such as most video-editing applications, or if you run a lot of applications at the same time. Both RL Supplies and CyberPower overclocked their Core 2 Duo E8400 processors to 3.6GHz to provide a free speed boost.

VISUAL AIDS

All these PCs have widescreen monitors except for NEC's £400 PowerMate VL370, which has a 17in 1,280x1,024-pixel resolution. The remaining £400 PCs, as well as one of the more expensive PCs, have 19in displays with a resolution of 1,440x900 pixels. The more expensive PCs have 22in screens with a higher resolution of 1,680x1,050. Widescreen displays are more common nowadays and are better for playing games and watching movies. They also tend to feel larger than the older 'square' displays.

If you want to play games, you'll need a dedicated graphics card, as none of the three PCs with onboard graphics can play games smoothly. Our benchmark results and reviews tell you how good each PC is for games.

This month

£400 PCs

CYBERPOWER

Gamer Infinity 600

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Max i45n86GT

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E8400 Advanced PC

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GLADIATOR

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MESH

Elite Titan HD

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PC SPECIALIST

Apollo Q9300GT Pro

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RL SUPPLIES

Modula 4700 OC

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CYBERPOWER Gamer Infinity 600

★★★★

£420 inc VAT

From CyberPower Systems 0800
0190863

The Gamer Infinity 600's Cooler Master case isn't pretty, and it's likely to get uglier when its perforated metal front fascia clogs up with dust. It sounds even worse, with a combination of low-frequency rumble from the processor fan and high-frequency whoosh from the graphics card that sounds like the interior of an aeroplane. The inside of the case looks better than the outside, with tidy cabling that makes upgrading easy. There are six 3½in and three 5¼in empty drive bays, all of which use plastic brackets that do away with fiddly screws. With three SATA ports, two RAM slots and three PCI slots free, there's a lot of scope to fill the case with extra components as your budget allows.

The monitor is the same 19in widescreen model included with Mesh's 6000+ X2 GT, which is bright and vibrant at the expense of accurate colours. This makes it great for watching video, but less suitable for creative graphics software where colour accuracy is more important than flattery. The graphics card and monitor support DVI and VGA, but only a VGA cable is included. There's nothing deluxe about the Logitech Deluxe keyboard, but both it and the wired optical mouse are comfortable enough for everyday use.

The Core 2 Duo E4500 is no slouch and, together with the 2GB of RAM that is standard issue in the £400 PCs, it meant the Gamer Infinity put in a decent performance in our Windows benchmarks, scoring 175 overall. However, we'd have settled for a slower processor if it meant a bigger hard disk than the 160GB one supplied. The motherboard doesn't have integrated graphics, but the GeForce 8400 GS graphics card isn't much better than integrated chips. These cards can't cope with most modern 3D games. Even at the most basic graphics setting it managed only 35.6fps in our Call of Duty 2 test. Most games released now won't fare as well.

We're delighted this PC has a three-year warranty, but the excellent internal expansion potential is spoiled by average components.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Generous expansion potential
- ☒ Noisy and ugly
- ☒ Low-capacity hard disk

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E4500, 2GB RAM, 160GB hard disk, 512MB Nvidia GeForce 8400 GS, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Gamer Infinity 600
DETAILS www.cyberpowersystem.co.uk



ECLIPSE Max i45n86GT

★★★★

£423 inc VAT

From Eclipse 08707 456 000

Eclipse's Max i45n86GT uses the same case as RL Supplies' £400 and £700 PCs, but the plastic front fascia doesn't look as stylish in silver as it does in black. Two USB2, headphone and microphone sockets are hidden behind a flap, with four more USB2 ports and all the other usual inputs around the back.

Eclipse, like Mesh and CyberPower, supplies a Hanns.G HW191D monitor with its £400 system. This comes with a VGA but no DVI cable. However, buying one will only set you back a further £5. The same three suppliers charge for delivery on top of the £400 budget we gave, but Eclipse's is the most at £23.

The 2.2GHz Core 2 Duo E4500 processor and 2GB of RAM helped it to put in a healthy performance in our Windows benchmarks. The 160GB hard disk is as bit stingy, but there's plenty of room and three free SATA ports for additional disks. An Intel GMA 950 graphics chip is integrated on to the motherboard, but this has been disabled in favour of an Nvidia GeForce 8600 GT graphics card; this was an excellent card on its launch a year ago, but it's beginning to show its age.

Still, performance in our Call of Duty 2 and Prey 3D games benchmarks was the best of the £400 PCs. When running at the monitor's native 1,440x900-pixel resolution with anti-aliasing disabled, it managed a respectable 39.3fps in Prey and a playable 26.9fps in Call of Duty 2. However, we would be hesitant to call this a gaming PC. It can't cope with Crysis and will probably struggle with most other games released a year from now. Upgrading the graphics card is an option, but you may find you have to upgrade the processor and the hard disk, too. Sadly, a RAM upgrade isn't possible, as the motherboard supports only 2GB of RAM.

It's an unexpected treat to find a £50 graphics card in a £423 PC, but we would recommend spending more if games are a priority. Otherwise, Eclipse's Max i45n86GT is competent but fails to stand out from the crowd.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Impressive games performance
- ☒ Generous expansion potential
- ☒ Low-capacity hard disk

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E4500, 2GB RAM, 160GB hard disk, 512MB XpertVision GeForce 8600 GT, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Max i45n86GT
DETAILS www.eclipsecomputers.com



GLADIATOR Perseus CS E2180 PC

★★★

£400 inc VAT

From Gladiator 08456 444666

The Antec NSK4480B case used by Gladiator is one of the smartest in this round-up, exuding quality without drawing attention to itself. Fan noise is equally understated – a gentle purr that's barely noticeable. The downside of the case's discreet front panel is a lack of ports and slots. Still, a pair of front-mounted USB2 ports should cope with most hardware. There are four more on the back, but other ports are below par. There are just three audio sockets, so upgrading to surround speakers will render the line and microphone inputs unusable. The network port is limited to 100Mbit/s and the integrated graphics lacks a DVI output.

The Yuraku 19in monitor lacks a DVI input, too. This is the first Yuraku we've seen, and we weren't impressed. Contrast was poor, so we had to choose between washed-out shadows or murky highlights – eliminating both at once proved impossible. Speakers integrated into monitors are never great, but these are particularly bad. The keyboard and mouse are much better, though, and very comfortable.

With its integrated GeForce 7050 graphics, this isn't a PC for anyone with even a passing interest in games. The Pentium processor may sound like an out-of-date chip, but this Dual Core E2180 is the same as a Core 2 Duo E4400 except it has less L2 cache. However, its 2GHz clock speed was slower than every other system here, except NEC's PowerMate VL370, as was its performance in our Windows benchmarks. A score of 159 overall is fine for general work and entertainment use, but those using creative software will want something more powerful. The generous 320GB hard disk capacity should be more than enough for most.

Windows Home Premium 64-bit edition is a strange choice, as the main benefit of this operating system is support for loads of RAM, and the Perseus supports only a maximum of 4GB. It also has below-average performance and a poor monitor. Mesh's 6000+ X2 GT PC is much better value.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Smart, quiet case
- ☒ Below-average performance
- ☒ Poor-quality monitor

DESKTOP PC Intel Pentium Dual Core E2180, 2GB RAM, 320GB hard disk, integrated graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Perseus CS E2180 PC
DETAILS www.gladiatorcomputers.com



MESH 6000+ X2 GT

★★★★★

COMPUTER
SHOPPER
BEST BUY

£420 inc VAT

From Mesh 0844 736 0440

The 6000+ X2 GT's tower case is shorter than most, and its gentle curves look smart. The front panel houses a comprehensive card reader, three USB2 ports and headphone and microphone sockets. There's a FireWire port, too, but it's not wired up because the motherboard can't accommodate it. With just three audio sockets on the back, it's not possible to attach a line input at the same time as surround speakers. Still, this isn't a problem for stereo output, which is all the monitor's tinny speakers require. The monitor's thin bezel looks good and its image is bursting with colour. Contrast is a little too strong, though, which isn't ideal for photo editing. The wireless keyboard and mouse reduce desktop tangles to complete a classy-looking package.

The problem with this small case is limited expansion potential; there is room for only one more optical drive and one more hard disk. Even these upgrades will be tricky, as there are no spare Serial ATA (SATA) ports on the motherboard to connect them. You'll have to replace the existing DVD writer and hard disk, fit Parallel ATA (PATA) drives or add some more SATA ports with a PCI or PCI-E card.

Mesh has splashed out on the processor; the Athlon 64 X2 6000+ accounts for around £100 of the budget. Its dual cores running at 3GHz cut through our Windows benchmarks, performing 15 per cent better than its nearest rival in the £400 group. There's a dedicated graphics card, too. The ATI Radeon HD 3650 can't handle the most demanding games, such as Crysis, but it managed a playable 26fps in Call of Duty 2 at 1,440x900 without anti-aliasing.

With so much great hardware included, something had to give. There's only a one-year warranty and Windows Vista Basic rather than Home Premium. There's no Aero desktop graphics or Media Center home-entertainment features, although the bundled CyberLink DVD Suite largely makes up for the latter.

Mesh's 6000+ X2 GT is not a good choice for upgraders, but this elegant PC is a superb performer and a pleasure to use.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Fast performance
- ✓ Smart peripherals
- ✗ Limited expansion potential; short warranty

DESKTOP PC AMD Athlon 64 X2 6000+, 2GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 512MB Sapphire Radeon HD 3650, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19in widescreen LCD
PART CODE 6000+ X2 GT
DETAILS www.meshcomputers.com



NEC PowerMate VL370

★★★

£399 inc VAT

From NEC 0844 894 0165

It's rare that we see a PC that isn't in a standard tower case, but NEC's computers here are exceptions. The more affordable PowerMate VL370 is the smaller of the two, and is roughly a quarter the volume of the other £400 PCs' cases. There are feet along two of its sides, indicating that it's designed to be used upright or flat on the desk. The same PC is available in two other types of case and all three are called VL370, so mention this *Shopper* review when ordering to get the model we tested.

We had some difficulty opening up the case but having managed it, it was quickly apparent that there's little reason to do so. The only available space is for a single half-height PCI card. There's a spare SATA port, too, but no room for another drive. The only way to upgrade is by using external USB devices or replacing internal components. NEC's website lists various options for other configurations, so it makes more sense to upgrade components when ordering.

The configuration submitted for review was basic. The single-core Sempron processor's 2.1GHz clock speed may sound impressive, but a score of 111 overall in our Windows benchmark is considerably less so. The 160GB disk will fill up all too quickly, and the integrated ATI Radeon X1250 graphics isn't cut out for 3D games. Still, these relatively meagre core components run cooler than faster ones, which means less fan noise and relatively low 68W power consumption during light use.

The compact, quiet design is tempting for those who need something discreet, and the generous three-year onsite warranty is superb, particularly at this price. However, in most other respects the PowerMate VL370 is below par. Its 17in monitor looks drab next to the 19in widescreens, and the use of Vista Basic is a little disappointing, too. If compactness is crucial, a £400 laptop might be a better option. Even at this price, a laptop could match the PowerMate VL370 for performance and (lack of) upgrade potential.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Compact, quiet and energy-efficient
- ✗ Small monitor
- ✗ Limited performance and upgrade potential

DESKTOP PC AMD Sempron LE-1200, 2GB RAM, 160GB hard disk, integrated graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 17in LCD
PART CODE PD9N6PR-000AZ01
DETAILS www.nec-computers.com



RL SUPPLIES Modula i1200 OC

★★★★★

£400 inc VAT

From RL Supplies 01923 896996

The Modula i1200 OC looks dark and sophisticated, with its minimal black case interrupted by a sliver of blue light across the front. The aptly named Microsoft Basic Keyboard and Mouse are decidedly less glamorous, but are comfortable to use. The widescreen Acer 19in monitor is a little plain, too, but its image quality is the best of all those in the £400 group. The Labtec speakers are in a different league to the others, but that's not saying much, as the other £400 systems all use integrated monitor speakers.

The PC case is bristling with slots, sockets and expansion bays. On the front, there's a multifunction card reader, three USB2 ports and headphone and microphone sockets. Around the back, there are a further six USB2 ports plus FireWire and eSATA. Audio-out is available in configurations up to 7.1 surround, and there's an optical S/PDIF output, too. An Nvidia GeForce 7100 graphics chip is integrated on to the motherboard, and has a choice of HDMI, DVI or VGA sockets. Sadly, the onboard graphics aren't fast enough to play Blu-ray movies, so you'll need a separate graphics card if you want to use your PC for films. Inside the case, there's lots of room for extra drives and two free SATA ports, although the 320GB disk is unlikely to fill up quickly. Fan noise is fairly low, but the high-pitched whine of the processor fan is louder than we would like.

The Celeron E2100 is a budget processor with a 1.6GHz clock speed, but RL Supplies has overclocked it to 2.2GHz. This puts its performance right up among the PCs with Core 2 Duo processors, making it comfortably fast enough for general use. However, while this helps RL Supplies manage its budget, it doesn't save enough for a dedicated graphics card. The integrated graphics are no use for 3D games.

It may seem a bit cheeky for RL Supplies to overclock a cheap processor when the other manufacturers use more expensive ones, but it does the trick. This is a well-balanced computer with excellent internal and external expansion potential.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Plenty of ports
- ✓ High-quality monitor
- ✗ Poor games performance

DESKTOP PC Intel Celeron E1200, 2GB RAM, 320GB hard disk, integrated graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Modula i1200 OC
DETAILS www.rlsupplies.co.uk



ECLIPSE Sphere i85n88GT SLi

★★★★

£723 inc VAT

From Eclipse 08707 456 000

This PC failed to make a good first impression with its perforated metal case. This may help with cooling, but it isn't easy on the eye. It sounds no better, either, with a loud, high-pitched whoosh coming from the graphics card.

The Microsoft keyboard and mouse look smart and are comfortable to use, and the 22in monitor's appearance doesn't betray its low price (Eclipse sells it separately for £141 including VAT). Image quality is good, but it doesn't fare well at upscaling lower resolutions, which may be a nuisance when playing games. It has an HDMI input, and the Nvidia 8800 GT graphics card is HDCP compliant and capable of dealing with HD content, so you can add a Blu-ray drive if you want to watch films.

Cabling is extremely tidy inside the case. The bays for 3½in hard disks face outwards for easier access, although there's little practical benefit as this makes disks harder to screw in. The motherboard supports SLI for running two graphics cards in tandem, and there's plenty of scope for internal expansion. External sockets are just as plentiful, with six USB2, two FireWire and two S/PDIF outputs. The lack of a built-in card reader is disappointing, though.

The Core 2 Duo E8500 processor used here costs around £50 more than the E8400 used by three of the other £700 systems but, with identical specifications except for a clock speed that's just five per cent higher, it's not a shrewd investment. We would have preferred the extra budget to go on a bigger hard disk. The Sphere scored lower than PC Nextday's system in each of our Windows benchmarks. We put this down to the Nvidia chipset. Games performance was above average among the £700 PCs, managing a comfortable 56.8fps in Call of Duty 2 at the monitor's 1,680x1,050 native resolution with 4x anti-aliasing.

Unfortunately, the expensive processor doesn't help to deliver a performance boost compared to the other PCs here, and there's little else to make the Sphere stand out.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Fast processor
- ☒ Low-capacity hard disk
- ☒ Excessive fan noise

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E8500, 2GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 512MB XFX GeForce 8800 GT Alpha Dog Edition, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 22in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Sphere i85n88GT SLi
DETAILS www.eclipsecomputers.com



MESH Elite Blu-GT

★★★★

£720 inc VAT

From Mesh 0844 736 0440

As the name suggests, the Elite Blu-GT can play Blu-ray video discs. The Pioneer BDC-202 drive reads Blu-ray discs as well as reading and writing to DVDs and CDs. CyberLink's BD Solution software includes a Blu-ray-compatible version of PowerDVD. The Iiyama E2202WS 22in widescreen monitor (the same model used in Mesh's £900 system reviewed on page 85) supports HDCP, and we had no problems watching high-definition discs.

The monitor's image was excellent, and its 1,680x1,050-pixel resolution does more justice to HD footage than the 1,366x768 resolution of most HD-ready LCD TVs. However, its built-in speakers aren't up to entertainment duties, and dedicated speakers aren't included. We'd recommend spending £24 on Logitech's S-220 speakers, but bear in mind that this PC is already £20 over the £700 budget for this group after the delivery charge is included.

FireWire ports are located at the front and back to accommodate tape-based video cameras. Video-editing enthusiasts will also appreciate the 500GB hard disk, and if it fills up there are three bays and two SATA ports for extra disks. Meanwhile, the eSATA socket on the back is ideal for attaching an external hard disk for fast backups.

The Core 2 Duo E8200 processor running at 2.66GHz is fast enough for any mainstream software, but the other £700 PCs here show that it's not the fastest processor available at this price. The score of 224 overall in our Windows benchmarks is the slowest of the £700 PCs. Games performance from the GeForce 9600 GT graphics card is impressive, although the GeForce 8800 GT-based PCs are even better. However, the SLI support means you can boost 3D performance by adding another 9600 GT card rather than having to swap the existing card for a faster, pricier one.

Blu-ray playback is a luxury that's well worth having, but we'd be hesitant to accept the trade-off in performance, especially considering that the Elite Blu-GT is a little pricier than most other PCs in this category.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Blu-ray video playback
- ☒ Comprehensive set of ports
- ☒ Below-average performance

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E8200, 2GB RAM, 500GB hard disk, 512MB MSI N9600 GT, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, BD-ROM, 22in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Elite Blu-GT
DETAILS www.meshcomputers.com



NEC PowerMate ML470

★★★★★

£649 inc VAT

From NEC 0844 894 0165

The ML470's slimline case isn't as compact as that of the VL370, reviewed on page 77, but it's dwarfed by its 22in widescreen monitor. The monitor's thin bezel looks stylish, but its image was a little dull out of the box. However, a tweak of the brightness and contrast settings gave us excellent image quality. The wired keyboard and mouse aren't that attractive, but they're comfortable and responsive.

Inside the case things are cramped, but NEC has managed to squeeze in a half-height graphics card and a PCI-E x1 and two PCI half-height cards, plus three empty RAM slots. There's an empty 3½in drive bay with external access, but only room to fit something short, such as a card reader. It's a shame NEC doesn't include one as standard. The 250GB hard disk capacity is fine for office use, but it's half that of most other £700 PCs here.

The GeForce 7100 GS graphics card is pretty hopeless when it comes to 3D games, managing just 3.3fps and 2.3fps respectively in Call of Duty 2 and Prey at 1,280x1,024 pixels. However, the 2.66GHz Core 2 Duo processor, backed up by 2GB of RAM, is fine for most Windows software. A score of 235 overall in our Windows benchmarks is a little below par compared to the other £700 PCs, but the ML470 costs just £649 and its performance is reasonable for the price. Another money-saving feature is the PC's relatively low power consumption. At 60 per cent of the average in the £700 group, it'll save around £15 a year in electricity bills if used for eight hours a day.

As with NEC's £400 VL370, the ML470 comes in various configurations, so mention this *Shopper* review when ordering to get the model we tested. Both NEC PCs sacrifice expansion space and games performance for the sake of compactness, but while the £400 PC also falls short for Windows performance, this one is reasonably competitive.

With a three-year onsite warranty, the PowerMate ML470 is an excellent choice for businesses and home offices where games and internal upgrades aren't important.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Compact, quiet and energy-efficient
- ☒ Three-year onsite warranty
- ☒ Low-capacity hard disk

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E8200, 2GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 256MB GeForce 7100 GS, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 22in widescreen LCD
PART CODE PE4NYZY-0009Z01
DETAILS www.nec-computers.com



PC NEXTDAY 4-4418 E8400 Advanced PC

★★★★

£656 inc VAT

From PC Nextday 0870 609 0125

The 4-4418 E8400 Advanced PC case is arguably the best-looking of all 18 PCs here, although it doesn't score so highly for practicality. The DVD writer is hidden behind a plastic door, but the eject button doesn't line up with the drive's button except when the door is held open manually. Another door reveals three USB2, headphone and microphone sockets plus a card reader. The card reader is better than most, as it supports the Memory Stick Duo format used by Sony cameras and phones, and because cards need to be pushed in only by a few millimetres rather than nearly all the way, making them easier to remove again.

Inside the case, there's room for only one more 5¼in and two more 3½in drives, and the case and cabling layout will make fitting any internal storage tricky. The graphics card is extremely close to the PCI-E x1 slot, and will need to be removed if access to the RAM slots is required.

It's disappointing to find a 19in monitor at this price, but the Advanced PC comes in £44 under budget, so it should be possible to upgrade to a 22in model and still get change from £700. The Cibox C1905 supplied lacks a DVI input, but its image quality over VGA was hard to fault. Sound quality through the built-in speakers was as bad as ever, though.

Initially, this PC crawled through our benchmarks. We eventually traced the problem to the processor clock multiplier, which was stuck on x6 rather than x9. A BIOS update cured the problem, but it's a black mark against PC Nextday for not spotting the problem before it shipped the PC. From then on, though, performance was excellent, second only to RL Supplies' overclocked Modula 4500 OC in each of our Windows benchmarks and topping our Call of Duty 2 games test.

PC Nextday's Advanced PC is not the best system here, but if the lower price and smaller monitor appeal then it's a respectable choice.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Competitive performance
- ✓ Stylish case
- ✗ Limited internal expansion potential

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E8400, 2GB RAM, 500GB hard disk, 512MB Inno3D 8800 GT, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19in widescreen LCD
PART CODE 4-4418 E8400 Advanced PC
DETAILS www.pcnextday.co.uk



PC SPECIALIST Apollo E840GT Pro

★★★★

£699 inc VAT

From PC Specialist 0844 499 4000

The Apollo E840GT Pro's industrial appearance isn't really our cup of tea. The Logitech S220 speakers look a little tacky, too, although their sound quality is way beyond that of the monitor-integrated speakers used elsewhere. The Video7 monitor also looks a little cheap, but the quality of its 22in image is perfectly good. The Logitech wireless keyboard and mouse manage to be both classy-looking and high quality, however.

The monitor has both DVI and VGA inputs, but it comes with just a VGA cable. Unfortunately, the graphics card lacks a VGA output and there was no DVI-VGA adaptor included in the box. However, we were assured that customers will receive a DVI cable, too. This monitor isn't HDCP-compliant, though, so you'll need to resort to the VGA cable and a DVI-VGA adaptor if you add a Blu-ray drive for high-definition video playback.

Cabling inside the case could be neater. Unused power cables have been tied together to avoid rattling around, but their position makes it tricky to perform upgrades. The graphics card's heatsink and fan blocks the PCI-E x1 slot below it, and the one above is blocked by a riser for a FireWire port. The internal USB cable for the front-mounted card reader wasn't connected at all. These issues weren't hard to resolve, but overall this PC's innards are pretty disorganised.

The 3GHz Core 2 Duo processor, 2GB of RAM and 512MB GeForce 9600 GT graphics card match the components of RL Supplies' Modula 4500 OC, but because it's not overclocked its performance in our benchmarks was more modest, scoring 238 overall. This PC will slice through most software, but you'll wish for better performance when editing HD video or making music. Games performance is typical of the £700 PCs, while SLI support means you can add another graphics card without having to replace the existing one.

There's little to dislike about this PC, but then nothing makes it stand out, either. RL Supplies' Modula 4500 OC is a better choice.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Decent core components
- ✗ Messy internal cabling
- ✗ Fairly ugly

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E8400, 2GB RAM, 500GB hard disk, 512MB GeForce 9600 GT, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 22in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Apollo E840GT Pro
DETAILS www.pcspecialist.co.uk



RL SUPPLIES Modula 4500 OC

★★★★★

£700 inc VAT

From RL Supplies 01923 896996



RL Supplies uses the same case here as it does for its £400 PC, but it's smart enough not to look out of place among these more expensive PCs. The Logitech X-240 speakers are easily the best in the £700 group. Sound quality isn't quite as detailed as our long-standing favourite set, the X-230, but it's not far off. However, the highlight of the RL's peripherals is the 22in LG L225WT monitor. This combines a stylish design with excellent image quality that is easily up to the demands of photo and video editing. As such, the lack of a FireWire port on the PC is a little disappointing, but this would be easy to remedy with an inexpensive PCI card. The monitor and graphics card are both HDCP-compliant, so a Blu-ray drive with bundled playback software is all that's needed to watch Blu-ray movies.

With three front- and six rear-mounted USB ports, there's no need for constant cable swapping or an untidy USB hub. Audio outputs comprise a headphone socket on the front and 7.1 analogue plus S/PDIF digital in both optical and coaxial formats on the back. Inside, there's plenty of room for additional drives, memory modules and expansion cards. The chunky graphics card means that fitting something into one of the PCI-E slots will be a tight squeeze, but there are two others to play with so this is unlikely to be a problem.

The Core 2 Duo E8400 processor, 2GB of PC2-6400 RAM and 512MB GeForce 9600 GT graphics card are fairly typical of the £700 PCs in this round-up, but RL has managed to get a performance boost of around 20 per cent by overclocking the 3GHz processor to 3.6GHz. With a score of 303 overall in our Windows benchmarks, the Modula 4500 OC beats most of the £900 PCs. Its 3D performance is impressive, too, although it's only average in the £700 group, as the graphics card has more influence on this result than the processor.

Considering its superb performance and excellent peripherals, plus the fact that it has no serious faults, RL Supplies' Modula 4500 OC is the best-value PC here.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Excellent performance
- ✓ Superior monitor and speakers
- ✗ No FireWire

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E8400, 2GB RAM, 500GB hard disk, 512MB Nvidia GeForce 9600 GT, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 22in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Modula 4500 OC
DETAILS www.rlsupplies.co.uk



CYBERPOWER Gamer Infinity Crossfire HD

★★★★★

COMPUTER
SHOPPER
BEST BUY

£899 inc VAT

From CyberPower Systems 0800
6120279

Despite its name, CyberPower's Gamer Infinity Crossfire HD doesn't have a high-definition optical drive. Nevertheless, it's a powerful PC. It's the only £900 PC in our group with a dedicated sound card, a Creative SoundBlaster X-Fi. This can produce more realistic sound effects in games that support its EAX processing, such as Battlefield 2142.

Although the Gamer Infinity doesn't come with a Blu-ray drive, the 22in widescreen display does have an HDMI port, so it can display HDCP-protected content such as Blu-ray movies. The graphics card doesn't have a HDMI port, but DVI-to-HDMI adaptors are inexpensive. The screen's backlight was a little uneven, but images looked bright and sharp.

Unlike most of the other £900 PCs, the Gamer Infinity doesn't have a memory card reader. It's also one of the few computers in this category to lack FireWire ports, but a PCI adaptor can easily be added.

CyberPower doesn't offer onsite warranty service, but the three-year warranty is the longest in the £900 category.

This PC may have not have a quad-core processor, but its overclocked Core 2 Duo E8400 running at 3.6GHz helped it attain some of the fastest scores of any £900 PC in our Windows benchmarks. It couldn't keep up with the quad-core PCs in our video-encoding test, but it was still quick. The Gamer Infinity has 4GB of RAM, which should be enough for most tasks.

Gamers will be pleased by this computer's excellent performance in our 3D graphics tests. It maintained high frame rates in both our Prey and Call of Duty 2 tests, even when we increased the display's resolution to its native 1,680x1,050 pixels.

We were impressed by the Gamer Infinity's fast performance in Windows and games, its lengthy warranty and the dedicated sound card. This is a great-value PC.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Fast in Windows and games
- ✓ Three-year warranty
- ✓ Dedicated sound card

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E8400, 4GB RAM, 500GB hard disk, ATI Radeon HD 3870X2, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 22in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Gamer Infinity Crossfire HD
DETAILS www.cyberpowersystem.co.uk



ECLIPSE Solar i85n88GT SLi

★★★★

£923 inc VAT

From Eclipse 08707 456 000

Eclipse's Solar i85n88GT SLi isn't a bad PC; it's just outclassed by the other £900 PCs here. It is one of three £900 PCs in our group to come without speakers, which is disappointing at this price. None of the PCs in this category is distractingly loud, but the Solar is noticeably noisier than many of the £900 computers, even when idle. We were also disappointed to see that the twin graphics cards block access to all but one PCI slot.

Although the Solar's graphics cards have DVI and HDMI outputs, the included 22in Asus widescreen monitor has only an analogue VGA port, so you'll need to use the provided DVI-to-VGA adaptor. Areas of white were displayed with a greyish tint, but otherwise images looked very bright. The monitor has wider viewing angles than the other monitors in this category, so colours looked far more consistent regardless of our seating position.

The Solar has the smallest amount of RAM in this category, with 2GB. This should be enough for most tasks, but having less RAM meant that the computer could not keep up with CyberPower's Infinity or RL Supplies' Modula in our memory-intensive image-editing and multiple-applications tests. It also lagged behind in our video-encoding test, where the quad-core Apollo Q9300GT Pro and Perseus CS Q6600 PC had the advantage.

Although other PCs here are SLI-capable, the Solar is the only one to come pre-fitted with two graphics cards configured in SLI mode. The two GeForce 8800 GT cards performed very well in our 3D games tests. Unfortunately, it couldn't maintain its table-topping performance at the monitor's native 1,680x1,050 resolution, where it scored 68.3fps in Prey, compared to the 103fps scored by the Radeon HD3870X2 card in Gladiator's Perseus. While this is still playable, newer games running at high-detail settings may struggle.

Although the Solar is a fast PC, it's not as well specified or as quick as the competition in this category. CyberPower's Gamer Infinity Crossfire HD is a better choice.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Good 3D performance
- ✗ Not as quiet as the competition
- ✗ Less RAM than the other £900 PCs

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E8500, 2GB RAM, 500GB hard disk, 2x 512MB Xpertvision 8800GT, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 22in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Solar i85n88GT SLi
DETAILS www.eclipsecomputers.com



GLADIATOR Perseus CS Q6600 PC

★★★★★

£899 inc VAT

From Gladiator 08456 444666

Gladiator's Perseus CS Q6600 PC has a large case with room for an additional five hard disks. Sadly, the large graphics card blocks access to all but one SATA port. This means you'll have to add a PCI SATA card if you want to add more than one additional hard disk or optical drive. Alternatively, you could connect an eSATA disk; the Perseus is the only £900 PC to have eSATA ports.

Gladiator supplies the same 19in widescreen Asus monitor as Eclipse's Solar. The VW222S has a VGA input, even though the graphics card only has DVI ports, so you'll need to use the provided adaptor. We were still impressed with the wide viewing angles and bright colours, though.

Like CyberPower's Gamer Infinity, the Perseus has a Radeon HD 3870X2 graphics card. This dual-processor card stormed through our 3D graphics tests, even managing 103fps at the monitor's native 1,680x1,050 resolution in our Call of Duty 2 test, so it should have no trouble playing graphically demanding games. A second graphics card can be added in CrossFire mode to boost 3D performance in future, although another double-slot card could block off access to one of the free PCI slots and the empty PCI Express x1 slot.

As expected, the Intel quad-core processor made short work of our video-encoding test. Our image-editing test doesn't take advantage of multiple processor cores, though, so the Perseus fell behind the dual-core PCs with faster clock speeds. Although none of the £900 PCs in our round-up was unbearably noisy, we were impressed by how quiet the Perseus was. It was one of the quietest PCs in this group, even when running our intensive benchmarks.

The oddly matched Microsoft mouse and Logitech keyboard both connect via USB, and feel comfortable enough for every day use. If you regularly play the latest games and edit video the Perseus is good value. CyberPower's Gamer Infinity is a better all-rounder, though.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Great 3D performance
- ✓ Very quiet; fast at encoding video
- ✗ SATA ports blocked

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Quad Q6600, 4GB RAM, 500GB hard disk, 512MB Asus EAH3870X2, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, DVD-RAM, 22in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Perseus CS Q6600 PC
DETAILS www.gladiatorcomputers.com



MESH

Elite Titan HD



£920 inc VAT

From Mesh 0844 736 0440

Mesh's Elite Titan HD is the only PC in this category to have both a Blu-ray drive and one of Intel's latest quad-core processors. It was marginally noisier than the other £900 PCs here, although it wasn't unbearably loud. We had no trouble playing back our Blu-ray movies, but it's a read-only drive so it can't burn data to blank Blu-ray discs.

Images and videos looked bright and crisp on the Iiyama 22in widescreen display. The backlight was a little uneven, however, and large areas of white had a slight blueish tint. Still, it did have wider viewing angles than the LG displays included with PC Specialist's Apollo Q9300GT Pro and RL Supplies' Modula 4700 OC.

Like the Modula, the Titan has 750GB of storage space. However, instead of using a single disk the Titan has two separate disks: a 250GB disk for Windows and a 500GB disk for your data. It's a shame that the two disks aren't of the same capacity so that you can create a RAID array.

The Titan's Core 2 Quad Q9450 processor was incredibly quick in our video-encoding test, producing a score of 461, which was the highest score here. The Titan wasn't as fast as the overclocked dual-core PCs in our other tests, but it was still incredibly quick and should handle anything that you throw at it.

The Titan's GeForce 9600GT graphics card was the slowest in this category, although the 80.9fps in our Prey test is far from slow. You'll still be able to play the latest games, although you may not be able to use such high detail settings as you would on CyberPower's Gamer Infinity or Eclipse's Solar SLi.

Mesh's Elite Titan HD is a great PC, particularly if you want to watch high-definition movies using the included Blu-ray player. Its processor is the fastest here and great if you're interested in editing video. It's quick in games, too. However, CyberPower's Gamer Infinity Crossfire HD is quicker overall in our benchmarks and has even better games performance. For most people, it's a better buy.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Plays Blu-ray movies
- ☒ Fast at encoding video; plenty of storage
- ☒ Can't build a RAID array

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Quad Q9450, 4GB RAM, 250GB+500GB hard disk, 512MB Nvidia GeForce 9600GT, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, BD-ROM, 22in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Elite Titan HD
DETAILS www.meshcomputers.com



PC SPECIALIST

Apollo Q9300GT Pro



£899 inc VAT

From PC Specialist 0844 499 4000

PC Specialist's Apollo Q9300GT Pro has a silver-coloured case, which is a refreshing change from the black-and-silver designs dominant in this group. Although none of the £900 PCs in our round-up is riotously noisy, we were still impressed by the Apollo's quiet operation, even when running our intensive benchmarks. We were also pleased with the nine USB2 ports, the most of any PC here.

The 22in widescreen LG display delivers excellent quality, although the Asus monitor included with both Gladiator's Perseus and Eclipse's Solar SLi has wider viewing angles. Unlike the Asus screen, though, the LG display can be connected using a DVI cable, so you won't need to use any adaptors to get the best-quality picture.

The Apollo's GeForce chunky 8800 GT graphics card is more than capable of playing the latest games, managing 85fps in our Prey test and 72fps in our Call of Duty 2 test. That said, competition in this category is tough and every other PC in this group, bar Mesh's Elite Titan HD, managed faster games frame rates.

The Apollo is SLi-capable, so a second graphics card could be added in future to boost 3D performance. This seems like more trouble than it is worth, though, since CyberPower's Infinity PC provides fast 3D performance out of the box, and another double-slot card would block off access to the spare PCI slots.

Like Gladiator's Perseus, the Apollo's quad-core Intel processor did very well in our video-encoding test. It couldn't quite keep up with the overclocked dual-core processors used by the Infinity and the Modula in our image-editing and multiple-applications tests, though. Its overall score of 248 is the lowest in the £900 category.

We were impressed by the Apollo's speed in our video-encoding benchmark and its lack of noise. However, CyberPower's Gamer Infinity Crossfire HD has better overall performance and is quicker in games.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Very quiet
- ☒ Fast at encoding video
- ☒ Outperformed by the competition

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Quad Q6600, 4GB RAM, 500GB hard disk, 512MB Nvidia GeForce 8800GT, DVD+/-RW +/-DL DVD-RAM, 22in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Apollo Q9300GT Pro
DETAILS www.pcspecialist.co.uk



RL SUPPLIES

Modula 4700 OC



£900 inc VAT

From RL Supplies 01923 896996

RL Supplies' Modula 4700 OC is a generously equipped PC with plenty of desirable features. For starters, it has a large 750GB hard disk, unlike most of the other £900 PCs in our group, which have 500GB disks. This should provide more than enough disk space for the largest library of photos, videos and music.

The Modula comes with an LG L225WT 22in widescreen display that is similar to the one included with PC Specialist's Apollo, but it is noticeably brighter. With a DVI input, you can connect it directly to the PC's graphics card without an adaptor.

Logitech's 2.1 X-240 speakers are also included. They have plenty of volume and bass, but they don't sound as detailed as Logitech's previous 2.1 set, the X-230. Nevertheless, they're still a better choice for listening to music than the Creative T6100 5.1 speakers that are included with the Gamer Infinity and Apollo PCs. The Modula has three empty PCI slots, the most of any PC in our £900 category. This provides plenty of space for accommodating peripherals such as a dedicated sound card or TV tuner.

Like CyberPower's Gamer Infinity, the Modula has a Core 2 Duo E8400 overclocked to 3.6GHz and 4GB of RAM. It was no surprise that it excelled in our image-editing and multiple-applications tests. The Modula was overtaken by the quad-core-equipped Perseus and Apollo in our video-encoding test, but its overall score of 307 is the fastest here.

The Modula's GeForce 8800 GTS graphics card did respectably well in our 3D graphics benchmarks. It lagged behind the Radeon HD 3870X2, used in the Infinity and the Perseus, but it was faster than the 8800 GT card used in the Apollo.

We were impressed by the Modula's speed in both our Windows and 3D benchmarks, but CyberPower's Gamer Infinity Crossfire HD was even faster in our 3D tests. Its hard disk isn't as large as the Modula's, but its three-year warranty and dedicated sound card more than make up for it.

SUMMARY

- ☒ Fast in Windows and games
- ☒ Large hard disk
- ☒ Three-year warranty

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E8400, 4GB RAM, 750GB hard disk, 512MB Nvidia GeForce 8800GTS, DVD+/-RW +/-DL DVD-RAM, 22in widescreen LCD
PART CODE Modula 4700 OC
DETAILS www.rlsupplies.co.uk

BENCHMARKS

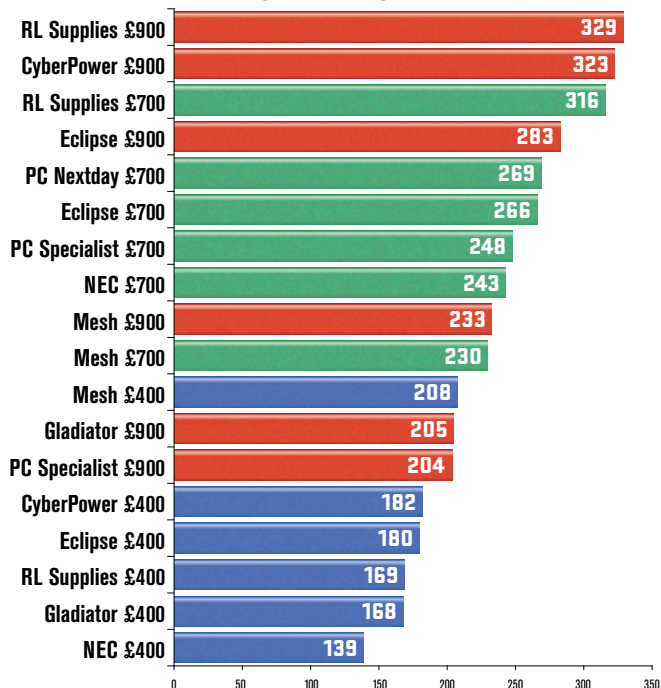
£900 PCs

£700 PCs

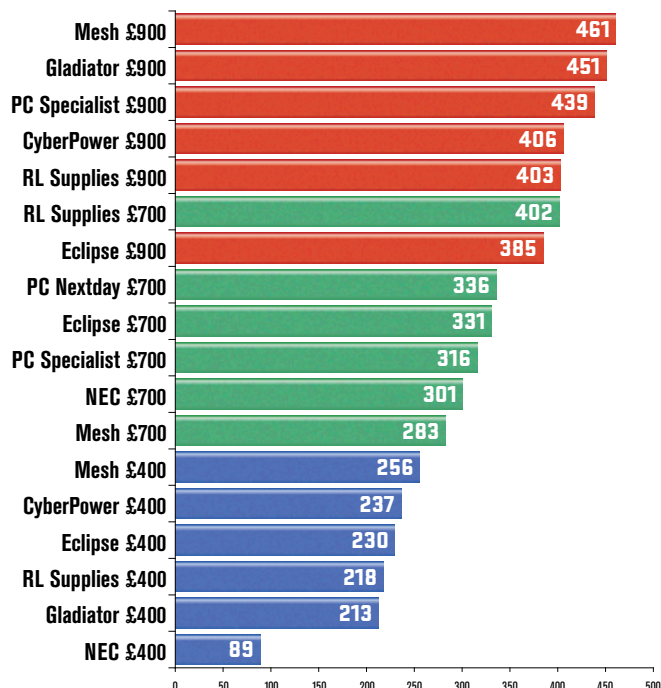
£400 PCs

2D performance Shopper application tests

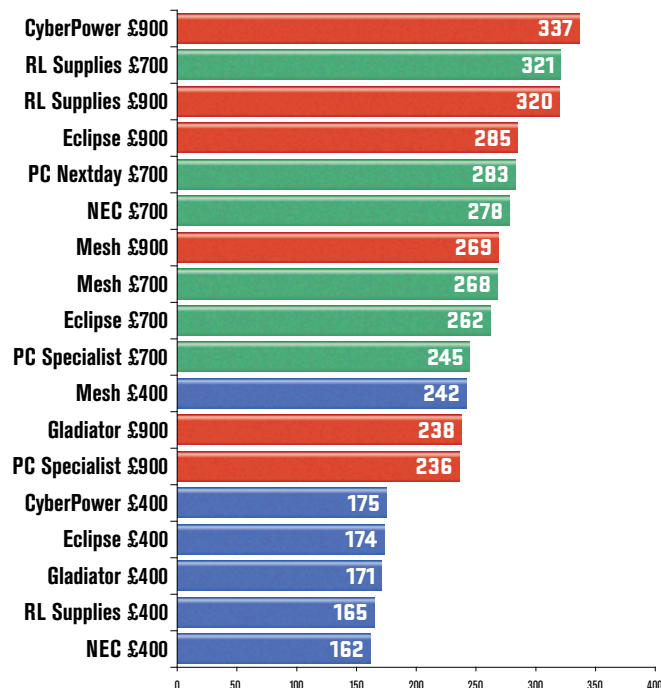
Image-Editing Test



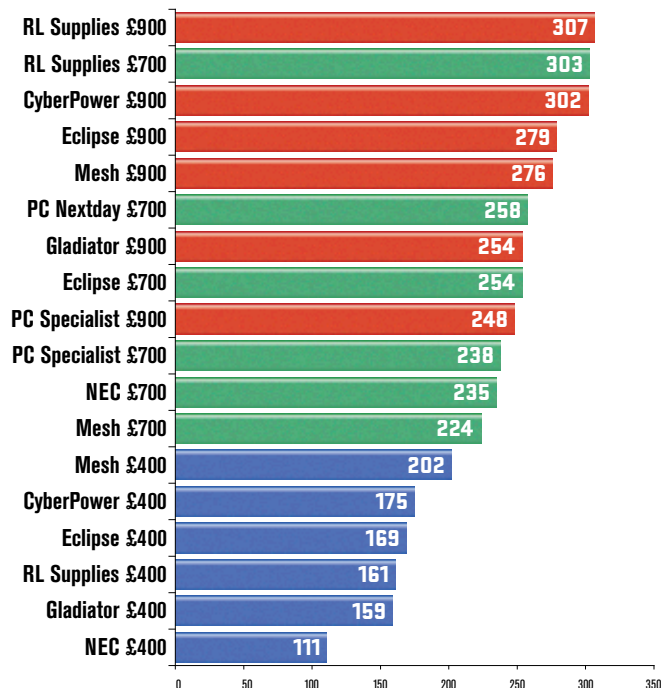
Video-Encoding Test



Multitasking



Overall



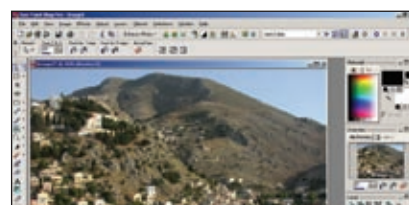
Computer Shopper's 2D benchmarks have been designed to show how PCs can stand up to the toughest tasks that Windows throws at them. Today's PCs have no problem running office applications such as Word and Excel, so we have chosen to focus our tests on areas where you could experience difficulties.

Encoding a short video to MPEG2 format is a processor-intensive task that anyone who transfers home videos to DVD will have to tackle. Our image-editing test simulates a session

of photo enhancement using Paint Shop Pro X. In our third test, a set of audio files is ripped to MP3 format.

Finally, we have put together a multitasking test that is designed to test the benefits of Hyper-Threaded and dual-core processors. This test compresses a DVD at the same time as running our image-editing test.

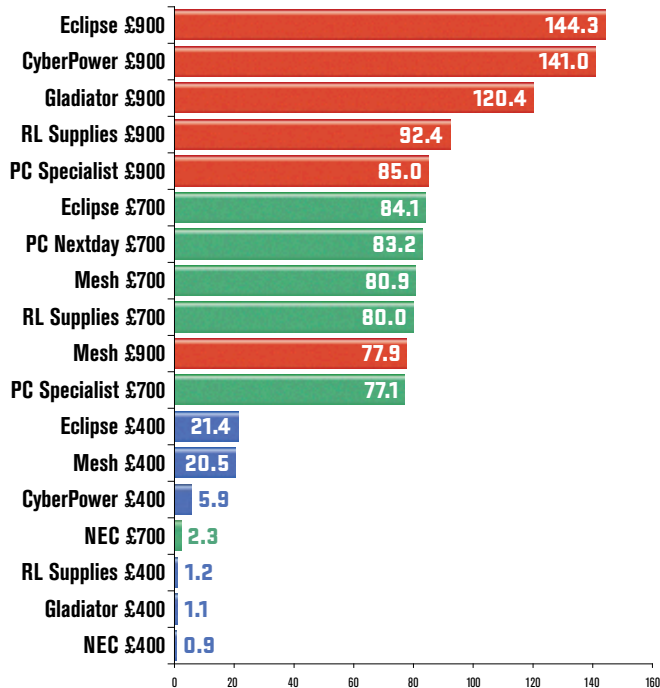
The figures shown are relative to a reference Evesham Athlon 64 3500+ system, which scores 100 in all tests.



SETTINGS We run our application tests at 1,280x1,024 resolution and in 32-bit colour
WEB www.computershopper.co.uk

3D performance Games

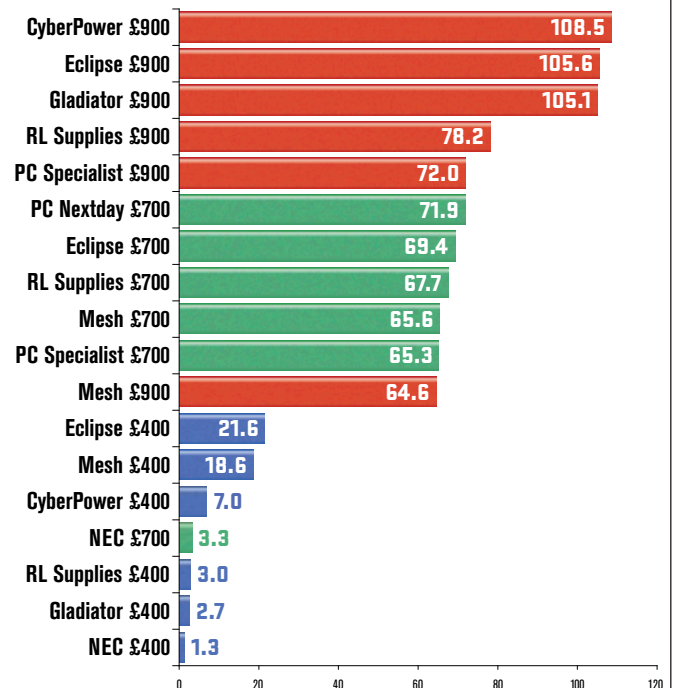
Prey (fps)



SETTINGS 1,280x1,024 resolution, high shader detail, 4x AA
WEB www.prey.com

Our Prey benchmark tests whether a PC has the power needed to play cutting-edge 3D games. A good score here indicates that a PC should cope with graphically intense 3D games.

Call of Duty 2 (fps)



SETTINGS 1,280x1,024 resolution, 32-bit colour, default settings
WEB www.futuremark.com

Call of Duty 2 uses DirectX and is still a very demanding game. With a wide range of effects and frenetic action, it tests every aspect of graphics performance.

Labs verdict PC systems

Despite the large numbers of PCs in this month's Labs, a few systems immediately stood out from the rest. All three of our Best Buy winners are great-value computers with combined performance and features exceeding those of their competitors in each price category.

Mesh's 6000+ X2 GT was easily the fastest £400 PC in our Windows benchmarks. It can even play 3D games if you're willing to settle for less detailed graphics. It doesn't have as much space for internal upgrades as some of the other budget computers, but otherwise it's an excellent-value PC and wins our Best Buy award.

If you have a little more money to spend, then RL Supplies' £700 Modula 4500 OC is our pick. It has the best monitor and speakers of all

the £700 PCs here. Its overclocked processor was so quick that this PC was even faster than some £900 computers here. It can also play detailed 3D games smoothly, and comes with a good-quality monitor and speakers. The Modula 4500 OC wins our Best Buy award.

If you want to play the latest 3D games, CyberPower's £900 Gamer Infinity Crossfire HD is ideal. It was astonishingly quick in our 3D tests, even when we increased the resolution of its 22in widescreen monitor. It also performed very well in our Windows application benchmarks, so it can handle more serious work, too. It's the only PC in our group to have a dedicated sound card, and one of only four computers here to have a three-year warranty. It also wins our Best Buy award.

£400 PCs

MESH
6000+ X2 GT

★★★★★



£700 PCs

RL SUPPLIES
Modula 4500 OC

★★★★★



£900 PCs

CYBERPOWER
Gamer Infinity
Crossfire HD

★★★★★



MANUFACTURER	CYBERPOWER	ECLIPSE	GLADIATOR	MESH	NEC	RL SUPPLIES
Model	Gamer Infinity 600	Max i45n86GT	Perseus CS E2180 PC	6000+ X2 GT	PowerMate VL370	Modula i1200 OC
Rating	★★★	★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★
Processor	Intel Core 2 Duo E4500	Intel Core 2 Duo E4500	Intel Pentium Dual Core E2180	AMD Athlon 64 X2 6000+	AMD Sempron LE-1200	Intel Celeron E1200
Processor external bus	200MHz (800MHz quad-pumped)	200MHz (800MHz quad-pumped FSB)	200MHz (800MHz quad-pumped FSB)	200MHz (1,000MHz HyperTransport)	200MHz (800MHz HyperTransport)	275MHz (1100MHz quad-pumped FSB)
Processor multiplier	X11	X11	X10	X15	X10.5	X8
Processor speed	2.2GHz	2.2GHz	2GHz	3GHz	2.1GHz	2.2GHz
Processor socket	LGA775	LGA775	LGA775	Socket AM2	Socket AM2	LGA775
Level I cache	128KB	128KB	128KB	256KB	128KB	128KB
Level II cache	2,048KB	2,048KB	1,024KB	2,048KB	512KB	512KB
Memory installed	2GB	2GB	2GB	2GB	2GB	2GB
Memory type (speed)	PC2-6400	PC2-5300	PC2-6400	PC2-5300	PC2-5300	PC2-5300
Maximum memory	4GB	2GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB
Motherboard	MSI MS-7392	MSI 945GCM5-F V2 (MS-7267)	Gigabyte GA-73VM-S2	ECS GeForce6 1005M-M2	NEC MS-7347	Gigabyte GA-73PVM-S2H
Motherboard chipset	Intel P31	Intel 945GZ	Nvidia nForce 610i	Nvidia MCP61	ATI RS690	Nvidia nForce 630i
Bios type	AMI	AMI	Award	Phoenix	Phoenix	Award
Power consumption standby	8W	9W	6W	9W	6W	8W
Power consumption idle	105W	97W	75W	98W	68W	82W
Power consumption active	136W	136W	96W	180W	150W	107W
PORTS						
USB2 ports (front/rear)	2/4	2/4	2/4	3/4	2/4	3/6
FireWire ports (front/rear)	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1
Networking	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100	10/100	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000
Legacy ports	2x PS/2, serial	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2, serial	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2
Other ports	None	VGA	None	VGA	None	eSATA
INTERNAL EXPANSION						
Case	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Small form factor	Midi tower
Case size HxWxD	484x422x188mm	451x417x189mm	424x420x218mm	424x378x177mm	342x308x91mm	458x417x189mm
PCI (free)	3 (3)	2 (2)	2 (2)	2 (2)	1 (1)	2 (2)
PCIe x1 (free)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
PCIe x16 (free)	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)
Serial ATA (free)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (2)	2 (0)	2 (1)	3 (2)
Memory (free)	4 (2)	2 (1)	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)
Drive bays 3½in (free)	7 (6)	6 (5)	4 (3)	3 (1)	1 (0)	6 (4)
Drive bays 5¼in (free)	4 (3)	4 (3)	3 (2)	2 (1)	1 (0)	4 (3)
HARD DISK						
Model	Hitachi Deskstar 7K160 (HDS721616PLA380)	Maxtor Diamondmax 20 (STM3160215AS)	Hitachi Deskstar 7K160 (HDT72032VLA360)	Seagate ST325041	Seagate Barracuda 7200.10 (ST3160815AS)	Samsung HD321KJ
Interface	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300
Capacity (formatted)	160GB (149GB)	160GB (149GB)	320GB (298GB)	250GB (233GB)	160GB (141GB)	320GB (298GB)
Spin speed	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm
GRAPHICS						
Graphics card	512MB Nvidia GeForce 8400 GS	512MB XpertVision GeForce 8600 GT	Integrated	512MB Sapphire Radeon HD 3650	Integrated	Integrated
Graphics chipset	Nvidia GeForce 8400 GS	Nvidia GeForce 8600 GT	Nvidia GeForce 7050	ATI Radeon HD 3650	ATI Radeon X1250	Nvidia GeForce 7100
Graphics/video ports	VGA, DVI, component, S-video	2x DVI, component, composite	VGA	2x DVI, component, composite	VGA, DVI	HDMI, DVI, VGA
SOUND						
Sound card	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio
Sound card outputs	7.1 line out	7.1 line out	Stereo line out	5.1 line out	5.1 line out	7.1 line out, optical S/PDIF out
Speakers	Monitor-integrated	Monitor-integrated	Monitor-integrated	Monitor-integrated	Monitor-integrated	Labtec Pulse-285 2.1
REMOVABLE DRIVES						
Floppy drive 3½in	No	No	No	No	No	No
Memory card reader	None	None	None	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick Pro, xD, CompactFlash	None	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick Pro, CompactFlash
Optical drive model	Optiarc AD-5200A	Optiarc AD-5200A	Optiarc AD-71915	TSST SH-S203N	Matshita UJ-850D	TSST SH-S202J
Optical drive type	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL
DISPLAY						
Size and technology	19in widescreen LCD	19in widescreen LCD	19in widescreen LCD	19in widescreen LCD	17in LCD	19in widescreen LCD
Model	Hanns.G HW191D	Hanns.G HW191D	Yuraku MA9jBA	Hanns.G HW191D	NEC LC17m	Acer AL1916W
Native resolution	1,440x900	1,440x900	1,440x900	1,440x900	1,280x1,024	1,440x900
Response time	5ms	8ms	8ms	5ms	12ms	8ms
Inputs	DVI, VGA, line in	DVI, VGA, line in	VGA, line in	DVI, VGA, line in	VGA (captive)	VGA
OTHER HARDWARE						
Modem	No	No	No	No	No	No
Keyboard	Logitech Deluxe Keyboard	Microsoft Basic Keyboard 1.0A	Logitech Deluxe 250 Keyboard	Logitech Deluxe 660 Cordless Desktop	Logitech Deluxe Keyboard	Microsoft Basic Keyboard 1.0A
Mouse	Logitech M-SBF90	Microsoft Basic Optical Mouse 1.0A	Logitech Optical Wheel Mouse	Logitech RX 650	Logitech M-SBF96	Microsoft Basic Optical Mouse 1.0A
Extras	None	None	None	None	None	None
SOFTWARE						
Software	None	None	None	CyberLink DVD Suite 5, Microsoft Works 8.5	Roxio Creator 9 LE	OpenOffice 2.3, Nero 7 Essentials
Operating system	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium 64-bit	Windows Vista Basic	Windows Vista Basic	Windows Vista Home Premium
Operating system restore option	Restore disc	Windows disc	Windows disc	Restore partition, Windows disc	Restore partition	Windows disc
BUYING INFORMATION						
Parts and labour warranty	Three years' RTB	One year RTB	Two years' collect and return	One year RTB	Three years' onsite	Two years' collect and return
Technical support times	9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat	8am-8pm Mon-Fri	10am-4pm Mon-Fri
Company founded	2005	1993	1999	1987	1996	1998
Technical support staff	3	7	3	18	50	3
Employees	16	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	60	Not disclosed	Not disclosed
Price including delivery (inc VAT)	£420	£423	£400	£420	£399	£400
Price including delivery (ex VAT)	£357	£360	£340	£357	£340	£340
Supplier	CyberPower Systems 0800 0190863	Eclipse 08707 456 000	Gladiator 08456 444666	Mesh 0844 736 0440	NEC 0844 894 0165	RL Supplies 01923 896996
Details	www.cyberpowersystem.co.uk	www.eclipsecomputers.com	www.gladiatorcomputers.com	www.meshcomputers.com	www.nec-computers.com	www.rlsupplies.co.uk
Part code	Gamer Infinity 600	Max i45N86GT	Perseus CS E2180 PC	6000+ X2 GT	PD9N6PR-000AZ01	Modula i1200 OC

MANUFACTURER	ECLIPSE	MESH	NEC	PC NEXTDAY	PC SPECIALIST	RL SUPPLIES
Model	Sphere i85n88GT SLi	Elite Blu-GT	PowerMate ML470	4-4418 E8400 Advanced PC	Apollo E840GT Pro	Modula 4500 OC
Rating	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★★
Processor	Intel Core 2 Duo E8500	Intel Core 2 Duo E8200	Intel Core 2 Duo E8200	Intel Core 2 Duo E8400	Intel Core 2 Duo E8400	Intel Core 2 Duo E8400
Processor external bus	333MHz (1,333MHz quad-pumped FSB)	333MHz (1,333MHz quad-pumped FSB)	333MHz (1,333MHz quad-pumped FSB)	333MHz (1,333MHz quad-pumped FSB)	333MHz (1,333MHz quad-pumped FSB)	400MHz (1,600MHz quad-pumped FSB)
Processor multiplier	X9.5	X8	X8	X9	X9	X9
Processor speed	3.16GHz	2.66GHz	2.66GHz	3GHz	3GHz	3.6GHz
Processor socket	LGA775	LGA775	LGA775	LGA775	LGA775	LGA775
Level I cache	128KB	128KB	128KB	128KB	128KB	128KB
Level II cache	6,144KB	6,144KB	6,144KB	6,144KB	6,144KB	6,144KB
Memory installed	2GB	2GB	2GB	2GB	2GB	2GB
Memory type (speed)	PC2-6400	PC2-5300	PC2-5300	PC2-5300	PC2-5300	PC2-6400
Maximum memory	8GB	8GB	4GB	8GB	8GB	8GB
Motherboard	ASRock Penryn 1600SLi-110dB	Asus P5N-E SLi	MSI MS-7377	ECS G33T-M2	Asus P5N-D	Gigabyte GA-P35-DS3L
Motherboard chipset	Nvidia nForce 650i SLi	Nvidia nForce 650i SLi	Intel Q35	Intel G33 + ICH9	Nvidia 650i SLi	Intel P35 + ICH9
Bios type	AMI	Phoenix	AMI	AMI	Phoenix	Award
Power consumption standby	8W	5W	7W	8W	8W	8W
Power consumption idle	141W	125W	82W	123W	146W	130W
Power consumption active	218W	178W	103W	184W	202W	208W
PORTS						
USB2 ports (front/rear)	2/4	3/4	2/6	2/4	3/4	3/6
FireWire ports (front/rear)	1/1	1/1	0/0	0/0	0/2	0/0
Networking	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000
Legacy ports	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2, parallel	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2, serial	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2, serial, parallel
Other ports	None	eSATA	VGA	VGA	None	None
INTERNAL EXPANSION						
Case	Midi tower	Midi tower	Small desktop	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower
Case size HxWxD	478x411x192mm	480x412x189mm	378x368x100mm	412x367x186mm	474x424x176mm	458x417x189mm
PCI (free)	3 (3)	2 (2)	2 (2)	2 (0)	2 (2)	3 (3)
PCIe x1 (free)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1) (PCI-E x4)	1 (0)	2 (2)	1 (1)
PCIe x16 (free)	1 (0)	2 (1)	1 (0)	1 (0)	2 (1)	1 (0)
Serial ATA (free)	4 (3)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (3)	4 (3)
Memory (free)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (3)	4 (2)	4 (3)	4 (2)
Drive bays 3½in (free)	5 (4)	5 (3)	1 (0)	3 (2)	4 (2)	6 (4)
Drive bays 5¼in (free)	4 (3)	4 (3)	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)
HARD DISK						
Model	Maxtor Diamondmax 21 (TM3250310AS)	Seagate Barracuda 7200.10 (ST350063)	Seagate Barracuda 7200.10 (ST3250310AS)	Western Digital Caviar SE16 (WD5000AAKS-00A7B0)	Western Digital Caviar (00AAKS-00A7B)	Samsung HD501LJ
Interface	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300
Capacity (formatted)	250GB (233GB)	500GB (459GB)	250GB (245GB)	500GB (459GB)	500GB (466GB)	500GB (465GB)
Spin speed	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm
GRAPHICS						
Graphics card	512MB XFX GeForce 8800 GT Alpha Dog Edition	512MB MSI N9600 GT	256MB GeForce 7100 GS	512MB Inno3D 8800 GT	512MB GeForce 9600 GT	512MB Nvidia GeForce 9600 GT
Graphics chipset	Nvidia GeForce 8800 GT	Nvidia GeForce 9600 GT	Nvidia GeForce 7100 GS	Nvidia GeForce 8800 GT	Nvidia GeForce 9600 GT	Nvidia GeForce 9600 GT
Graphics/video ports	2x DVI, S-video, component	2x DVI, S-video, component	DVI, S-video, composite	2x DVI, component, composite	HDMI, DVI, component, composite	2x DVI, S-video, component
SOUND						
Sound card	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio	RealTek HD Audio
Sound card outputs	7.1 line out, coaxial/optical S/PDIF out	5.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out	5.1 line out	7.1 line out	7.1 line out, coaxial/optical S/PDIF out	7.1 line out, coaxial/optical S/PDIF out
Speakers	Monitor-integrated	Monitor-integrated	Monitor-integrated	Monitor-integrated	Logitech S220 2.1	Logitech X-240 2.1
REMOVABLE DRIVES						
Floppy drive 3½in	No	No	No	No	No	No
Memory card reader	None	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick Pro, Smart Media, CompactFlash, xD	None	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick Pro, Memory Stick Pro Duo, xD, CompactFlash	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick Pro, Smart Media, CompactFlash	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick Pro, Smart Media, CompactFlash
Optical drive model	Optiarc AD-5200A	Pioneer BDC-202	LiteOn DH16A1S	TSST SH-S203D	LG GSA-H55L	TSST SH-S202J
Optical drive type	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL, BD-ROM	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL
DISPLAY						
Size and technology	22in widescreen LCD	22in widescreen LCD	22in widescreen LCD	19in widescreen LCD	22in widescreen LCD	22in widescreen LCD
Model	Hanns.G HG216D	Iiyama ProLite E2202WS	Proview AL2237ABJW	Cibox C1905	Video7 L22WD	LG L225WT
Native resolution	1,680x1,050	1,680x1,050	1,680x1,050	1,440x900	1,680x1,050	1,680x1,050
Response time	5ms	5ms	5ms	5ms	5ms	5ms
Inputs	HDMI, VGA, line in	DVI, VGA, line in	2x VGA, line in	VGA, line in	DVI, VGA, line in	DVI, VGA
OTHER HARDWARE						
Modem	No	No	No	No	No	No
Keyboard	Microsoft Comfort Curve Keyboard 2000 1.0	Logitech Deluxe 660 Cordless	Logitech Deluxe Keyboard	Microsoft Basic Keyboard 1.0A	Logitech Deluxe 660 Cordless	Microsoft Digital Media Keyboard 1.0A
Mouse	Microsoft Wheel Mouse Optical 1.1A	Logitech RX 650	Logitech M-SBF96	Microsoft Basic Optical Mouse 1.0A	Logitech RX 650	Microsoft Wheel Mouse Optical 1.1A
Extras	None	None	None	None	None	None
SOFTWARE						
Software	None	CyberLink BD Solution, Microsoft Works 8.5	Roxio Creator 9 LE	None	CyberLink DVD Suite 5	OpenOffice 2.3, Nero 7 Essentials
Operating system	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Business	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium
Operating system restore option	Windows disc	Restore partition, Windows disc	Restore partition	Restore partition	Windows disc	Windows disc
BUYING INFORMATION						
Parts and labour warranty	One year RTB	One year RTB	Three years' onsite	One year RTB	One year RTB	Two years' collect and return
Technical support times	9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat	8am-8pm Mon-Fri	9am-6pm Mon-Fri	9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat	10am-4pm Mon-Fri
Company founded	1993	1987	1996	1993	2003	1998
Technical support staff	7	18	50	25	5	3
Employees	Not disclosed	60	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	Not disclosed
Price including delivery (inc VAT)	£723	£720	£649	£656	£699	£700
Price including delivery (ex VAT)	£616	£613	£552	£558	£595	£596
Supplier	Eclipse 08707 456 000	Mesh 0844 736 0440	NEC 0844 894 0165	PC Nextday 0870 609 0125	PC Specialist 0844 499 4000	RL Supplies 01923 896996
Details	www.eclipsecomputers.com	www.meshcomputers.com	www.nec-computers.com	www.pcnextday.co.uk	www.pcspecialist.co.uk	www.rlsupplies.co.uk
Part code	Sphere i85N88GT SLi	Elite BLU-GT	PE4NYZY-0009Z01	4-4418 E8400 Advanced PC	Apollo E840GT PRO	Modula 4500 OC

MANUFACTURER	CYBERPOWER	ECLIPSE	GLADIATOR	MESH	PC SPECIALIST	RL SUPPLIES
Model name	Gamer Infinity Crossfire HD	Solar i85n88GT SLi	Perseus CS Q6600 PC	Elite Titan HD	Apollo Q9300GT Pro	Modula 4700 OC
Rating	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
Processor	Intel Core 2 Duo E8400	Intel Core 2 Duo E8500	Intel Core 2 Quad Q6600	Intel Core 2 Quad Q9450	Intel Core 2 Quad Q6600	Intel Core 2 Duo E8400
Processor external bus	400MHz (1,600MHz quad-pumped FSB)	333MHz (1,333MHz quad-pumped FSB)	266MHz (1,066MHz quad-pumped FSB)	333MHz (1,333MHz quad-pumped FSB)	266MHz (1,066MHz quad-pumped FSB)	400MHz (1,600MHz quad-pumped FSB)
Processor multiplier	X9	X9.5	X9	X8	X9	X9
Processor speed	3.6GHz	3.16GHz	2.4GHz	2.66GHz	2.4GHz	3.6GHz
Processor socket	LGA775	LGA775	LGA775	LGA775	LGA775	LGA775
Level I cache	32KB	32KB	32KB	32KB	32KB	32KB
Level II cache	6144KB	6144KB	4096KB	6,144KB	4096KB	6144KB
Memory installed	4GB	2GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB
Memory type (speed)	PC2-6400	PC2-6400	PC2-6400	PC2-5300	PC2-6400	PC2-6400
Maximum memory	8GB	8GB	8GB	8GB	8GB	8GB
Motherboard	MSI P35 Neo-F	XFx nForce 680i LT SLi	MSI P35 Neo 2-FR	Asus P5N-D	Asus P5N-D	Gigabyte P35-DS3L rev 2.0
Motherboard chipset	Intel P35 + ICH9	Nvidia nForce 680i LT SLi	Intel P35 + ICH9R	Nvidia nForce 750i SLi	Nvidia nForce 750i SLi	Intel P35 + ICH9
Bios type	AMI	Phoenix	AMI	Phoenix	Phoenix	Award
Power consumption standby	6W	5W	4W	5W	6W	6W
Power consumption idle	138W	180W	132W	160W	155W	119W
Power consumption active	300W	270W	300W	230W	230W	215W
PORTS						
USB2 ports (front/rear)	2/4	2/4	2/4	2/4	5/4	2/6
FireWire ports (front/rear)	0/0	1/1	1/0	1/1	0/1	0/0
Networking	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000
Legacy ports	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2	2x PS/2	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2, serial, parallel
Other ports	Optical S/PDIF input	None	2x eSATA	None	None	None
INTERNAL EXPANSION						
Case	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower
Case size HxWxD	450x214x516mm	437x206x487mm	475x202x493mm	415x183x483mm	434x218x498mm	440x207x486mm
PCI (free)	2 (2)	2 (1)	2 (2)	2 (2)	2 (2)	3 (3)
PCIe x1 (free)	2 (1)	2 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)	2 (1)	1 (1)
PCIe x16 (free)	1 (0)	2 (0)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)	1 (0)
Serial ATA (free)	4 (3)	6 (5)	4 (1)	4 (1)	4 (3)	4 (3)
Memory (free)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (0)	4 (2)	4 (2)
Drive bays 3½in (free)	4 (3)	4 (2)	6 (5)	5 (2)	4 (3)	5 (3)
Drive bays 5¼in (free)	6 (5)	5 (4)	3 (2)	4 (3)	4 (3)	5 (4)
HARD DISK						
Model	Samsung HD501LJ	Maxtor DiamondMax 22 STM3500320AS	Maxtor DiamondMax 22 STM3500320AS	Samsung Spinpoint T166 (HD250HJ), Samsung Spinpoint T166 (HD501LJ)	Western Digital Caviar SE 16 WD5000AAKS-00A7B	Samsung Spinpoint F1 HD753LJ
Interface	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300
Capacity (formatted)	500GB (465)	500GB (465)	500GB (465)	250GB+500GB (232GB+465GB)	500GB (465)	750GB (698GB)
Spin speed	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm
GRAPHICS						
Graphics card	ATI Radeon HD 3870X2	2x 512MB Xpertvision 8800GT	512MB Asus EAH3870X2	512MB Nvidia GeForce 9600GT	512MB Nvidia GeForce 8800GT	512MB Nvidia GeForce 8800GTS
Graphics chipset	ATI Radeon HD 3870X2	Nvidia GeForce 8800GT	ATI Radeon HD 3870X2	Nvidia GeForce 9600GT	Nvidia GeForce 8800GT	Nvidia GeForce 8800GTS
Graphics/video ports	2x DVI, TV out	2x DVI, 2x HDMI, 2x TV-out	2x DVI	2x DVI, TV out	2x DVI, TV out	2x DVI, TV out
SOUND						
Sound card	Creative SoundBlaster X-Fi Xtreme	RealTek ALC885	RealTek ALC888T	RealTek ALC883	Realtek ALC883	RealTek ALC888
Sound card outputs	7.1 line out, optical S/PDIF out	7.1 line out, optical S/PDIF out	7.1 line out	7.1 line out, coaxial/optical S/PDIF out	7.1 line out, coaxial/optical S/PDIF out	7.1 line out, coaxial/optical S/PDIF out
Speakers	Creative Inspire T6100 5.1	None	None	Creative Inspire A500 5.1	Creative Inspire T6100 5.1	Logitech X-240
REMOVABLE DRIVES						
Floppy drive 3½in	No	No	No	No	No	No
Memory card reader	No	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick/Pro, Smart Media, MicroDrive, xD	No	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick/Pro, Smart Media, MicroDrive, xD	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick/Pro, Smart Media, MicroDrive	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick/Pro, Smart Media, MicroDrive
Optical drive model	Sony NEC Optiarc AD-5200A	Sony NEC Optiarc AD-5200A	Sony NEC Optiarc AD-7191S	Pioneer BDC-202	LG GSA-H55L	TSST SH-S202J
Optical drive type	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL DVD-RAM	DVD+/-RW +/-DL, BD-ROM	DVD+/-RW +/-DL DVD-RAM	DVD+/-RW +/-DL DVD-RAM
DISPLAY						
Size and technology	22in widescreen LCD	22in widescreen LCD	22in widescreen LCD	22in widescreen LCD	22in widescreen LCD	22in widescreen LCD
Model	Hanns.G HG216D	Asus VW222S	Asus VW222S	Iiyama ProLite E2202WS	LG L226WTQ	LG L225WT
Native resolution	1,680x1,050	1,680x1,050	1,680x1,050	1,680x1,050	1,680x1,050	1,680x1,050
Response time	5ms	2ms	2ms	5ms	2ms	5ms
Inputs	VGA, HDMI	VGA	VGA	DVI, VGA	DVI, VGA	DVI, VGA
OTHER HARDWARE						
Modem	No	No	No	No	No	No
Keyboard	Logitech Deluxe 660 Cordless Desktop	Microsoft Comfort Curve Keyboard 2000 1.0	Logitech Deluxe 250 Keyboard	Logitech Deluxe 660 Cordless	Logitech Deluxe 660 Cordless Desktop	Microsoft Digital Media Keyboard 1.0A
Mouse	Logitech RX 650	Microsoft Wheel Mouse Optical 1.1A	Microsoft IntelliMouse Explorer 4.0A	Logitech RX 650	Logitech RX 650	Microsoft Wheel Mouse Optical 1.1A
Extras	None	None	None	None	None	None
SOFTWARE						
Software	None	None	None	CyberLink BD Solution 5.5, Microsoft Works 8.5	None	Ahead Nero Express 7, OpenOffice 2
Operating system	Windows Vista Home Premium 64-bit	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium 64-bit	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium 64-bit	Windows Vista Home Premium
Operating system restore option	Windows disc	Windows disc	Windows disc	Restore disc	Windows disc	Windows disc
BUYING INFORMATION						
Parts and labour warranty	Three years' RTB	One year RTB	Two years' collect and return	One year RTB	One year return to base	Two years' collect and return
Technical support times	9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat	9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat	10am-4pm Mon-Fri
Company founded	2005	1993	1999	1987	2003	1998
Technical support staff	3	7	3	20	5	3
Employees	16	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	60	Not disclosed	Not disclosed
Price including delivery (inc VAT)	£899	£923	£899	£920	£899	£900
Price including delivery (ex VAT)	£765	£766	£765	£783	£765	£766
Supplier	CyberPower Systems 0800 6120279	Eclipse 08707 456 000	Gladiator 08456 444666	Mesh 0844 736 0440	PC Specialist 0844 499 4000	RL Supplies 01923 896996
Details	www.cyberpowersystem.co.uk	www.eclipsecomputers.com	www.gladiatorcomputers.com	www.meshcomputers.com	www.pcspecialist.co.uk	www.rlsupplies.co.uk
Part code	Gamer Infinity Crossfire HD	Solar i85N88GT SLi	Perseus CS Q6600 PC	Elite Titan HD	Apollo Q9300GT PRO	Modula 4700 OC